

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a wound by removing a protease from the site of the wound, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting fibers that are capable of removing a protease, wherein said fibers consist essentially of protein fibers;

(b) forming a wound dressing from said fibers;

(c) selecting at least one protein from the group consisting of growth factors, cytokines, and chemokines for application to a wound site;

(d) applying said wound dressing and said protein to the wound site so that said fibers are in contact with the wound site, and allowing at least a portion of said protease found at the wound site to be attracted to and entrapped by said fibers; and

(e) removing said wound dressing from the wound site so that at least a portion of said protease is removed from the wound site.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said protein fibers are silk fibers.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said protein fibers are wool fibers.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said fibers are in the form of a fabric.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said fabric is a silk gauze.

6-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said protease comprises elastase.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said protease comprises neutrophil elastase.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said protease comprises gelatinase.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said protease comprises gelatinase B (MMP-9).

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said protease comprises plasmin.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said protein is applied to said wound site as a component separate from said wound dressing.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said protein is applied to said wound site in the form of an ointment, lotion, solution, or gel.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said protein is included as part of the wound dressing itself.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said growth factor is chosen from the group consisting of platelet-derived growth factors, vascular endothelial growth factors, transforming growth factors, fibroblast growth factors, and epidermal growth factors.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a wound by removing a protease from the site of the wound, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) applying a wound dressing and at least one growth factor to a wound site wherein said wound dressing comprises fibers capable of removing said protease, wherein said fibers consist essentially of protein fibers and wherein said wound dressing is applied so that said fibers are in contact with the wound site; and

(b) allowing said wound dressing to withdraw and entrap said protease so that healing of the wound is promoted.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said growth factor is applied to the wound site as a component separate from said wound dressing.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein said growth factor is applied to said wound site in the form of an ointment, lotion, solution, or gel.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said growth factor is included as part of the wound dressing itself.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said growth factor is chosen from the group consisting of platelet-derived growth factors, vascular endothelial growth factors, transforming growth factors, fibroblast growth factors, and epidermal growth factors.

24. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing for removing a protease from the site of the wound and supplying a growth factor to a wound site, said wound dressing comprising:

(a) fibers consisting essentially of protein fibers, wherein said fibers are configured to be placed in contact with the wound site when the wound dressing is applied to the wound; and

(b) at least one growth factor

wherein a protease found at the wound site may be attracted to and entrapped by said fibers.

25. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing of claim 24 wherein said protein fibers are silk fibers.

26. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing of claim 24 wherein said protein fibers are wool fibers.

27. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing of claim 24 wherein said fibers are in the form of a fabric.

28. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing of claim 27 wherein said fabric is a silk gauze.

29. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing of claim 24 wherein said dressing further comprises a non-protein-containing material in addition to the fibers.

30-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) The wound dressing of claim 24 wherein said growth factor is chosen from the group consisting of platelet-derived growth factors, vascular endothelial growth factors, transforming growth factors, fibroblast growth factors, and epidermal growth factors.